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AUG 16 2005

SEND TO: United States Patent Office
 Examiner: A. Choudhury
 Group Art Unit: 2143
 Tel No: 512-272-3909
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FROM: J.B. KRAFT
 Tel No: 512-473-7303

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Docket No: ACLS92001004819 Serial No. 09/826,708 Atty: J.B. KRAFT

Applicant:	
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Deposit Acct. No. 09-0447Fees: Amendment Notice of Appeal Appeal Brief Other

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: R. Dutta

Serial No.: 09/826,708

Filed: April 5, 2001

For: System and Method for Customized E-Mail Services

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Response in the above-identified Application.

No additional fee is required. No claims have been added.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 09-0447. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Any additional fees required under 37 CFR §1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.

Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17.

Customer No. 32,329

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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PATENT
09/826,708

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: : Group Art Unit: 2143
Rabindranath Dutta et al. : Examiner: A. Choudhury
Serial No: 09/826,708 : Intellectual Property
Filed: 04/05/2001 : Law Department - 4054
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR : International Business
CUSTOMIZED E-MAIL SERVICES : Machines Corporation
: 11400 Burnet Road
: Austin, Texas 78758
Date: 8/15/05 : Customer No. 32,329

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence including the present Response and accompanying Transmittal letter is being transmitted via facsimile to USPTO, Group Art Unit 2143 at telephone number 571-273-8200, and to the attention of Examiner A. Choudhury on 8/15/05.

J.B.KRAFT
J.B.Kraft
Signature

Date

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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AUS920010048US1

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09/826,708

RESPONSE

This is in response to the Official Action mailed May 16, 2005.

The new rejection of claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the combination of Sklandman et al. (US6,400,810) in view of Lee et al. (US6,212,553) is respectfully traversed. As will be hereinafter established, neither reference suggests the present invention. Also, Examiner's proposed combination of elements from these two references in an attempt to show obviousness was not made in the light of any teaching in either reference but in light of Applicants' own teaching. Applicants submit that such combination of references is not valid.

The advance of the present invention involves the recognition that the sender of E-mail messages may be enabled to customize the sent messages by creating tags to indicate the importance of the message wherein the tags are varied between one recipient and another, i.e. the sender determines differences in importance of the E-mail message between the recipients based upon the needs of the recipients. Independent claims 1, 13, and 20, and their respective dependent claims 2-4, 13-16, and 21-23 define this advance.

In Sklandman, the flags indicative of the importance of received e-mail messages are determined solely by the recipients of the messages, and are set based upon only recipient input at the notification server of the recipient which advises the recipient that an E-mail message has been received. The Examiner admits this in the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 3 of the Official Action. It is clear from the column 3, lines 4-61, in Sklandman cited by the Examiner that the subscriber i.e. the recipient of the

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E-mail sets the attribute and corresponding priority flags which determine how future received E-mail will be handled in the recipient's notification server.

The Examiner relies on the teaching of Lee to make up for these deficiencies in Sklandman. The Examiner is not very specific on what Lee is supposed to contribute to the combination of references. The Examiner cites a six column section in Lee (col. 20, l. 41 through col. 26, l. 59 for the general teaching that priorities in E-mail may be set by either the sender or the recipient. Applicants have reviewed these sections in Lee, and at best they set forth the very general and known functions: that senders of E-mail may set priority flags for the E-mail, e.g. "Urgent" or "normal" which is applicable for the E-mail message irrespective of the recipient; or conversely the recipient may set up his personal priorities for all incoming E-mail messages without any sender input. In this extensive six column citation in Lee, Applicants could not find anything suggestive of sender input to a recipient of an E-mail message which creates a priority tag specific to that recipient which varies from the priority tag sent by the sender of the same E-mail message to another recipient.

Independent claim 5 is submitted to be patentable over Sklandman in view of Lee for all of the reasons set forth above for the Patentability of independent claim 1. In addition, claim 5 sets forth that the recipient's E-mail preferences are communicated to the sender prior to the sending of an E-mail message so that the sender may use these preferences in determining the priority tags. In arguing the obviousness of this claim, Examiner contends that Lee suggests that the recipients preferences for incoming E-mail set up in the notification server of Sklandman could be sent to the sender before the E-mail was

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sent so that the sender could then use such information in creating priority flags specific to the recipient. Applicants submit that the very general and broad range disclosure in the cited six columns of Lee fails to suggest any preliminary information going from a future recipient to a potential sender of E-mail.

The last argument is also applicable in establishing the unobviousness of claims 7-12, and 24-26. All of these claims contain the limitation that a preference concerning received E-mail of a potential E-mail recipient is communicated to a potential sender before any E-mail message is sent. There appears to be no suggestion in the cited six columns of Lee of preliminary information going from a future recipient to a potential sender of E-mail.

Since the Official Action of May 16, 2005 was a non-final rejection based on new art, Applicants have under separate cover requested a telephone interview in order to explore possible patentable subject matter herein.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-26 are now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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In re application of: R. Dutta

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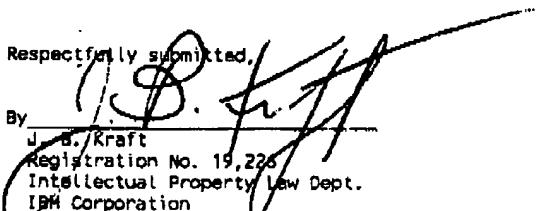
Firs:

Enclosed herewith is a Response in the above-identified Application. No additional fee is required. No claims have been added. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 09-0447. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. Any additional fees required under 37 CFR §1.16 for the presentation of extra claims. Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR §1.17.

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